



Queen's University Belfast & UMass Lowell

SEASON 2: SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH, LOWELL, MA

Monday 8th August to Friday 12th August 2011

Prepared by Dr Colm J Donnelly & Ronan McHugh
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General administrative arrangements

This is the second season of the archaeological excavation at St Patrick's Church, Lowell, MA, undertaken by the University of Massachusetts at Lowell (UMass Lowell) and Queen's University Belfast (QUB) as part of the Irish-American Heritage Archaeological Program. This is an educational program which provides opportunities for students at the two universities to study aspects of our shared heritage through participation in archaeological excavations in Northern Ireland and Lowell. As was the situation in August 2010, the costs associated with Season 2 will be met jointly by the universities. Responsibility for events that take place in each jurisdiction during the lifecycle of the program will remain with the respective university, whose staff will ensure that all necessary permissions and agreements are secured.

Administrative arrangements at St Patrick's

At St Patrick's Church, Lowell, ownership of the site rests with the Roman Catholic Church whose representatives in Lowell have kindly given permission to carry out the excavation in the lawn area to the front of the church. The project's contact at the church is David McKean, Parish Archivist (dadumc@comcast.net)

The archaeologists from Queen's University Belfast who will travel to Lowell and who will provide educational support for the excavation are Dr Colm Donnelly and Ronan McHugh. Dr Colm Donnelly will act as Academic Director for the duration of the excavation while Dr Frank Talty will oversee the administration of the program in Lowell.

Contact Details (Queen's University Belfast):

Dr Colm Donnelly: c.i.donnelly@qub.ac.uk, mobile phone 07736 645654

Mr Ronan McHugh: r.mchugh@qub.ac.uk, mobile number 00353 871445664

Contact Details (UMass Lowell):

Dr Frank Talty: Francis_Talty@uml.edu

Victoria Denoon: Victoria_Denoon@uml.edu

All equipment required for the excavation in Lowell was shipped from Queen's University Belfast in advance of the Season 1 excavation in August 2010 and has been stored at St Patrick's Church.

Excavation strategy

It is our intention to excavate two trenches in the lawn at the front of St Patrick's Church (see Appendix 1). The first of these will be an extension to Trench 2, opened in 2010, while the second (Trench 3) will be a new trench, approximately 10 feet by 6 feet in dimension, with the trenches designed to further investigate the foundations of the house uncovered in Season 1 and which may be a house constructed circa 1845 by Ref James McDermott.

As was the case in August 2010, rigid metal fencing will be placed around both trenches to provide a fixed barrier between the work area and the rest of the property. Access to the work area will be strictly controlled by the Academic staff and any visitors will be supervised while within the excavation area. The fencing will have safety warning signs attached, advising that it is a work area and that access is restricted.

Excavation will be led by the two professional archaeologists (Dr Colm Donnelly & Ronan McHugh) from Queen's University Belfast, assisted by 3 students from UMass Lowell and 3 students from QUB, and hand tools will be used throughout. No buried services and utilities have been identified in the proposed work area. It is anticipated that excavation will be to a maximum depth of 3 feet and ground conditions will be constantly monitored for any signs of potential collapse. We have an established risk assessment system that we will be implementing before any work commences, in order to identify hazards and manage these out of the work area. We also have an established accident reporting system, while Ronan McHugh is a qualified first-aider.

APPENDIX 1: ST PATRICK'S EXCAVATION PLAN, AUGUST 2011

